



H.R. 2517 – Protecting Our Children Comes First Act

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 2517 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Nick Lampson (D-TX) on May 24, 2007. The bill was ordered to be reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, by voice vote, on July 17, 2007.

H.R. 2517 is scheduled to be considered on the floor on November 13, 2007.

BACKGROUND

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children was established in 1984 to help find missing children, prevent child abduction and sexual exploitation, and assist the victims of child abduction and sexual exploitation, their families, and the professionals that serve them.

The appropriations for the Missing and Exploited Children's program, which is administered by the Department of Justice (DOJ), are set to expire at the end of fiscal year 2008.

Note: As part of their fiscal year 2008 budget request, the Administration proposed to combine the funding for the Missing and Exploited Children's program with other juvenile programs administered by DOJ under a proposed "Child Safety and Juvenile Justice Program" discretionary block grant.

SUMMARY

H.R. 2517 would reauthorize the Missing and Exploited Children's program and amend the Missing Children's Assistance Act to provide an annual grant to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to enable them to conduct a number of programs, including:

- The operation of a 24-hour toll-free line for individuals reporting information regarding the location of any missing child.
- The provision of assistance and information to State and local governments and law enforcement agencies in order to reunite children with their families.
- The operation of a cyber tipline to provide online users and electronic service providers an effective means of reporting Internet-related child sexual exploitation.

H.R. 2517 increases the authorization level for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children from \$20 million to \$50 million in fiscal year 2008 to fiscal year 2013.

Cost

CBO cost estimate is not available at this time.

Staff Contact

For questions or further information contact Brianne Miller at (202) 226-2302.